

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 /023 R

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R 151745Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 110924 SENT PRAGUE DATED MAY 13.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, EFIN, ETRN, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SPACIL PAID FAREWELL CALL ON
DEPUTY SECRETARY ON MAY 9.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT DURING AMBASSADOR'S TOUR IN
WASHINGTON BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEGUN TO IMPROVE. HOW-
EVER, PASSAGE OF TRADE ACT HAD BEEN A SETBACK. HE HOPED WE
COULD RESOLVE CLAIMS PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE BUT STRESSED THAT
WE WOULD NEED TIME TO GET A REEVALUATION FROM THE CLAIMANTS
AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN
WAY OF A SETTLEMENT. HE HAD HOPED THAT WE COULD HAVE MOVED
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FASTER IN THIS REGARD.

3. SPACIL SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS STAND READY TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PROPOSAL. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE ACT, THERE WERE TWO PROBLEMS: (1) POLITICAL CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN TITLE IV, WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOC, AND (2) SPECIFIC AMENDMENT CONCERNING CLAIMS AND GOLD. HE HOPED THAT LATTER PROVISION WOULD BE REVISED.

4. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE TOO HOPED THIS WOULD BE

POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH TIMING WAS UNCERTAIN. HE ADDED THAT INITIAL CZECHOSLOVAK DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CLAIMS QUESTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT THAT WE SHOULD NOW PROCEED WITH OPENING OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BRATISLAVA AND WITH RATIFICATION OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. MOVEMENT ON THESE ISSUES WOULD HELP TO FURTHER RELATIONS.

5. SPACIL SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO PRAGUE. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OBJECTIVE OF CONSULATE IN BRATISLAVA WAS TO PROMOTE TRADE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT, DESPITE LACK OF MFN, TRADE HAD INCREASED. HE LOOKED FOR TREND TO CONTINUE.

6. SPACIL AGREED THAT TRADE WAS DEVELOPING FAVORABLY. UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF TRADE ACT BOTH SIDES WERE NOW UNDER SOME RESTRAINT. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, HE SAID THAT A POSITIVE ACT ON OUR PART WOULD BRING FORTH POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ATMOSPHERE COULD WORSEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IF INTER-CARRIER TALKS BETWEEN PAN AMERICAN AND CSA SHOULD BREAK DOWN FOR SOME REASON. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. SPACIL ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS PRIMARILY A TECHNICAL ISSUE, BUT, AS WITH CLAIMS QUESTION, A POLITICAL SOLUTION MAY BE NECESSARY.

7. SPACIL SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH VISIT BY CODEL BINGHAM. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT SUCH EXCHANGES CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE OF THEM. SPACIL ADDED THAT CZECHO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION WILL VISIT US IN NOVEMBER TO CONCLUDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH US CHAMBER. HE EXPECTED THAT A SENIOR GOC TRADE OFFICIAL WOULD ACCOMPANY DELEGATION.

8. SPACIL AGAIN REFERRED TO UPWARD TREND IN RELATIONS NOTING THAT US FOREIGN POLICY REPORT FOR 1971 HAD DEVOTED ONLY ONE RATHER CRITICAL PARAGRAPH TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THINGS WERE BETTER NOW. FINALLY, SPACIL OFFERED THE PURELY PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS IF A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SUCH AS THE SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY COULD VISIT PRAGUE.

9. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR DESERVED MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HIS EFFORTS WILL EVENTUALLY BEAR FRUIT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE110924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/EE:TEDEAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaabpem.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY
TAGS: EFIN, ETRN, CZ, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006